

Auburn University

Auburn, AL • Public School



The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

OVERALL RANK

28 ▼
/257

▼ -17 FROM 2024

GRADE

D+

▼ C- FROM 2024

SPEECH CONTROVERSIES

0

— 0 FROM 2025

Overview

Auburn University ranks 28 out of 257 schools in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 69 and a D+ speech climate grade. The school continues to hold a “green light” Spotlight rating, indicating strong written policies.

Auburn places in the top 25 on “Disruptive Conduct,” signaling broad rejection of shout-downs or blockades. That bright spot is offset by serious concerns elsewhere. The university is in the bottom 25 on “Openness,” meaning many topics are hard to discuss.

Auburn could bolster its score by formally adopting the Chicago Statement on free expression and an official commitment to institutional neutrality — steps that would complement its strong written policies and help rebuild student confidence.

Spotlight Rating

Green



FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@thefire.org.

Visit our website: <https://rankings.thefire.org/> for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS



42% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



61% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



22% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

1.88:1

There are roughly 1.88 conservative students for every one liberal student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D

▼ DECREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

▼ DECREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

O

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

O

DEPLATFORMINGS

O